



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Allium canadense L.

Wild Garlic

- Habitat:** Alluvial woods, thickets, and meadows.
[Forested wetland; Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland)]
- Range:** New Brunswick to North Dakota, south to Florida and Texas.
- Phenology:** Flowers in early summer.
- Family:** Alliaceae

Aids to Identification: Tight clumps of soft, linear, not hollow, keeled leaves with a distinctly onion-like smell. The bulbs are 1-3 cm long and have a fibrous outer coat with diamond-shaped spaces between the nerves. The flowers are pink or white, but are often replaced by sessile bulblets.

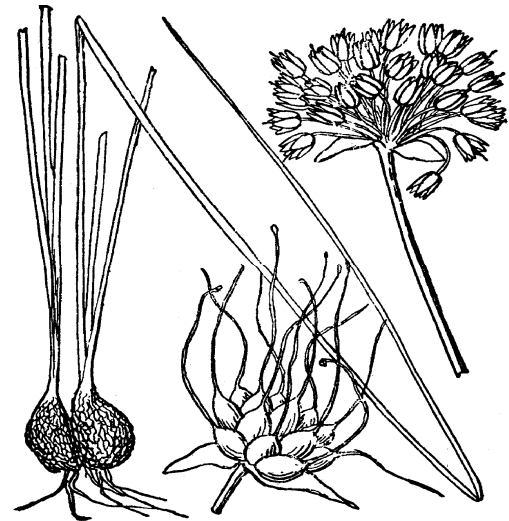


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Ecological characteristics: Usually found in rich wooded bottomlands (hardwood floodplain forests), in alluvial soils near streams. Vegetative reproduction, both by the inflorescence bulblets and underground bulbs, is common and the plant may become dominant, its leaves forming dense mats over small areas.

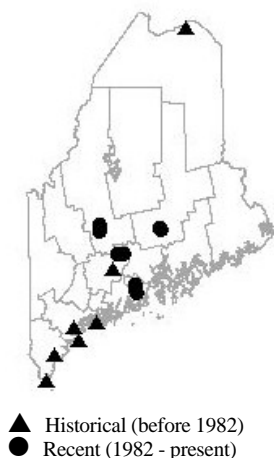
Synonyms: Represented in Maine by *Allium canadense* var. *canadense*.

Rarity of *Allium canadense*

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| State Rank: | S2 | Imperiled in Maine because of rarity or vulnerability to further decline. |
| New England Rank: | None | |
| Global Rank: | G5 | Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally. |

Status of *Allium canadense*

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Federal Status: | None | No Federal Status. |
| State Status: | Special Concern | Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered. |



Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 15 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Penobscot, Somerset, York.

Dates of documented observations are: 1918, 1920, 1921, 1938, 1982, 1983 (2), 1986 (2), 1990, 1991 (2), 1992 (2), 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000 (3)

Reason(s) for rarity:

At northern limit of its range, not rare southward.

Conservation considerations:

Effects of logging are not well known; partial removal of the canopy would be less likely to adversely affect the plant than would complete removal.

Plant rarity and status is based on 2008 data and the rest of the information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 04 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species,
please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

